

# *Characteristics of*

# **The Population of Hired Farmworker Households**

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MAR 23 1972

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As part of a research program dating from 1946, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has published annual information on the numbers, characteristics, and earnings of persons hired to work on farms. In most years supplemental information is also obtained on the employment and related aspects of the conditions of hired farmworkers. In 1962, in addition to the data regularly published, information was obtained on the entire population of households containing one or more persons who had done hired farmwork at some time during the year. These data, collected for the Economic Research Service by the Bureau of the Census in conjunction with the Current Population Survey in December 1962, provide the basis for this report.

The report was prepared under the general direction of Louis J. Ducoff, Chief, Farm Population Branch. Robert B. Pearl, Earle J. Gerson, and Valentine Zabijaka of the Demographic Surveys Division, Bureau of the Census, cooperated in planning the survey and supervised the survey operations and tabulations of the data.

Information on the employment and earnings of the 1962 hired farm working force are presented in other reports: (1) Advance Report: The Hired Farm Working Force of 1962, (ERS-141, Oct. 1963) and (2) The Hired Farm Working Force of 1963 With Supplementary Data for 1962 (Agricultural Economic Report No. 76, May 1965).

Washington, D. C.

August 1965

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## HIGHLIGHTS

1. The 3.6 million people who did farmwork for wages in 1962 lived in 2.6 million households in December of that year. The total population of these households numbered 11.2 million persons, or about 6 percent of the total U. S. population.
2. About 27 percent of the farm wageworker population was nonwhite. Fully one-half were children and youth under 18 years of age. Around 36 percent lived on farms and 64 percent lived either in urban places or in rural areas, but not on farms. About 50 percent lived in the South.
3. Among the heads of households in which farm wageworkers lived, about 87 percent were males. Nearly 50 percent of the heads were under 45 years of age. About 65 percent had completed only eight grades of school or less.
4. Median family income for the year 1962 from all sources of all households with farm wageworkers was about \$2,600. The median for white households (\$3,150) was more than double that of nonwhite households (\$1,500).
5. In about 178,000 households, the head did some migratory farmwork (work outside his home county). About 600,000 persons lived in households headed by migratory workers. Median family income among these households was about \$2,150 in 1962, or \$450 lower than the median for all households with farm wageworkers.
6. The degree of dependence of families upon hired farmwork for their livelihood varies greatly. For this report households were classified as having minor, moderate, or primary dependence on farm wagework on the basis of the days of such work done by head alone or by the head and other members of the household.
7. About half of the population surveyed lived in households with only minor dependence on farm wagework. Thirty-two percent of these persons lived on farms. About one-fourth of the population was nonwhite. Family income averaged about \$3,200, with only about 4 percent coming from farm wagework.
8. The total population in households with moderate dependence on farm wagework numbered about 2.7 million. Thirty-six percent lived on farms. Over a third of the population was nonwhite. Their median income was about \$1,900, of which about 28 percent was from farm wagework. This group generally does not have regular or full employment in either farm or nonfarm work or in both types of work combined.
9. Households with primary dependence on farm wagework included 2.2 million people. Nearly half of them lived on farms. A little over one-fourth of the population was nonwhite. They averaged about \$2,500 family income, with over 80 percent of it derived from farm wagework.

10. Over half (56 percent) of the farm wagedworker households had annual incomes in 1962 of less than \$3,000, the figure widely used to define families living in poverty. For the United States as a whole about one-fifth of the families had less than \$3,000 annual income in 1962. The proportion of farm wagedworker households with less than this amount of income was particularly high among nonwhites (83 percent), among households headed by persons who had done some migratory work (71 percent), and among those with moderate dependence on farm wagedwork (71 percent).
11. Farm wagedworker households with less than \$3,000 income from all sources in 1962 contained 3.0 million children and youth under 18 years of age, about 27 percent of all children and youth in the poverty sector of the entire population of the United States.
12. In summary, farm wagedworker households contained about 6 percent of the total population of the United States, but they comprised about 15 percent of all households with annual income from all sources of less than \$3,000, and contained about 27 percent of all the children in the United States living in households with this level of income.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF HIRED FARMWORKER HOUSEHOLDS

by

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## INTRODUCTION

Although systematic data have been available for many years on hired farmworkers, little has been known about the population of all ages associated with these workers. Yet such data are pertinent in a number of contexts. By almost any measure, the occupation of farm wageworker ranks as poorest in income and education of worker, housing, continuity of employment, and extent of inclusion in the conventional social protections of unemployment compensation, disability insurance, minimum wage or collective bargaining laws. Thus, it is relevant to survey not only the farmworkers themselves, but also to know the size and characteristics of the population dependent in some degree on them.

In this study, farmworker households are those households having at least one member who had engaged in hired farmwork during the year, a definition in accord with usage in Current Population Survey of December 1962. <sup>1/</sup> The number of people in such households was then tabulated by the characteristics of the household head and by the amount of hired farmwork done by members of the household. The result is analogous to occasional past surveys that have identified the population of farm operator households.

## THE POPULATION OF HIRED FARMWORKER HOUSEHOLDS

In December 1962, there were 2.6 million households in the United States with one or more of the 3.6 million persons who did farmwork for wages or salary in 1962 (table 1). The total population of these households was 11,249,000 persons, or 6.1 percent of the total U. S. population. This represents the maximum number of persons in the Nation who had some direct degree of dependence on hired farmwork for their support.

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<sup>1/</sup> Hired farmworkers included all persons 14 years of age and over who did some farmwork for cash wages and who were in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the survey. See the Appendixes for a more complete explanation of survey coverage, statement on reliability of the estimates, and definitions and explanations of terms used in this report.

Table 1.--Characteristics of population in hired farmworker households, by color and migratory work status of head, 1962

Characteristics	Unit	Total	Color		Head did migratory work
			White	Nonwhite	
Number of households	Thou.	2,569	1,946	623	178
Population in households	Thou.	11,249	8,195	3,054	604
Persons per household	No.	4.38	4.21	4.90	3.40
Children under 18 per household	No.	2.17	1.98	2.75	1.43
Total population	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban residence	Pct.	25.2	25.4	24.6	40.1
Rural-nonfarm residence	Pct.	39.0	40.6	34.7	30.0
Rural-farm residence	Pct.	35.8	34.0	40.7	29.9
Total population	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northeast	Pct.	8.5	10.3	3.5	3.7
North Central	Pct.	22.3	29.4	3.2	11.9
South	Pct.	50.5	37.3	86.1	44.9
West	Pct.	18.7	23.0	7.2	39.5
Total household heads	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male	Pct.	87.2	91.5	73.4	94.4
Female	Pct.	12.8	8.5	26.6	5.6
Total household heads	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years old	Pct.	7.8	8.0	7.3	11.7
25-44	Pct.	42.1	43.1	38.8	51.4
45-64	Pct.	41.0	40.7	42.0	30.7
65 and over	Pct.	9.1	8.2	11.9	6.2
Population by education of household heads 25 yrs. old and over: <sup>1/</sup>					
Total population	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 years	Pct.	24.9	17.7	44.6	40.6
5-8	Pct.	39.6	40.4	37.6	34.3
9-11	Pct.	14.3	14.6	13.1	4.7
Completed high school	Pct.	21.2	27.3	4.7	20.4
Median family income	Dol.	2,600	3,156	1,505	2,149
Estimated percentage of total income received from farm wage work	Pct.	26	25	32	47
Number of farm wageworkers	Thou.	3,622	2,542	1,080	<u>2/</u> 285
Average persons per household who did any farm wage work	No.	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.6
Household heads by chief activity					
December 1962:					
Farm wage work	Pct.	22.6	22.1	24.4	49.4
Other farmwork	Pct.	14.6	16.7	7.7	8.6
Nonfarm work	Pct.	41.1	43.6	33.2	17.1
Unemployed	Pct.	5.6	5.0	7.4	13.7
Not in the labor force	Pct.	16.1	12.6	27.3	11.2
Household heads: Proportion unemployed of those in labor force	Pct.	6.7	5.7	10.0	15.4

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes population in households not included in education sample. <sup>2/</sup> Estimated.

Of the population in farmworker households, 3,054,000 persons, or 27 percent, were nonwhite. Thus, nonwhites who made up about 12 percent of the general population in 1962 were greatly overrepresented in the farm wage-worker population. <sup>2/</sup> Most of the nonwhites are Negroes, but Japanese, Filipinos, and American Indians are also included.

One-half of the population of farm wageworker households were children and youth under 18 years of age. This compares with about 37 percent for all households in the United States. Households with one or more farm wageworkers were somewhat larger (4.4 persons) than the average household in the United States (3.8). Nonwhite farmworker households averaged 4.9 persons in 1962 compared with 4.2 persons in white households, a difference due mainly to the larger average number of children and youth in the nonwhite households. At the time of the survey, nonwhite households averaged 2.8 persons under age 18, while white households averaged 2.0 children and youth. Nonwhite households also typically contained a larger number of persons who had done farm wage-work in 1962 (1.7) than did white households (1.3).

Residence and regional distribution.--Only about 36 percent of the population of hired farmworker households lived on rural farms at the time of the survey in December 1962. An additional 39 percent lived in rural areas but not on farms, and 25 percent resided in urban places. Among those living in rural areas, a larger proportion of nonwhites than whites lived on farms.

The South, with only 30 percent of the total population of the country, had 50 percent of the population in farmworker households. A little less than one-fifth of the farmworker population lived in the West and a little more than a fifth lived in the North Central region. The remaining 8 percent were in the Northeast. The nonwhite farmworker population was highly concentrated in the South in 1962. That region had 86 percent of the nonwhite hired worker population.

Sex and age distribution of household heads.-- Farm wageworker households have males as the head somewhat more often than do other households. In 1962, 87 percent of farmworker households had a male as the head compared with 82 percent of all households. Households with a woman as the head are rather frequent among nonwhite farmworkers. More than one-fourth of these households do not have a male head. This compares with one-twelfth of the white worker households without a man as the head. The heads of households having farm wageworkers are somewhat younger, on the average, than are the heads of other households. Nearly 50 percent of them were under 45 years of age, compared with 45 percent in the general population. Nonwhite heads were a little older, on the average, than white heads of farmworker households.

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<sup>2/</sup> Information on the general population used for comparative purposes in this report is from various publications of the U. S. Bureau of the Census.

Education of household heads.--As has been pointed out in a previous report, farm wageworkers have the lowest average educational level of any major occupation group in the Nation. 3/ Furthermore the average educational level of farm wageworkers (7.5 years) did not increase between 1940 and 1960. This is in marked contrast to the pattern in the general adult population, where the median educational level rose from 8.5 to 11.0 years of school completed in the same period.

The median years of school completed by heads of households (25 years of age and over) which had one or more persons doing farm wagework in 1962 was 7.7 years. About 65 percent of these household heads had not gone beyond 8 grades of school. Among nonwhite heads, more than 80 percent had not gone beyond 8 grades in school. Of the family heads in the general population in 1962, on the other hand, only 35 percent had not gone beyond 8 grades of school. For nonwhite heads, in the general population, the percentage was 56.

Total family income in 1962.--Households in which one or more members had done some farm wagework had a median net money income from all sources of about \$2,600 in 1962. The median for white households of \$3,156 was more than double that of \$1,505 for nonwhite households. Part of the difference in total income resulted from the fact that a higher proportion of nonwhite households were headed by persons who for the greater part of the year were not in the labor force or were unemployed. Also, more white than nonwhite heads were engaged primarily in nonfarm work rather than in farm wagework.

Migratory status.--There were 178,000 households, containing 604,000 persons of all ages, in which the head did some migratory farmwork in 1962. These households do not include all of the 380,000 people who did migratory farmwork during the year. Some migratory workers either did not come from households where the head was a migratory worker or they lived in group quarters which were not defined as households. It is estimated that about 300,000 households had one or more migratory workers. The relatively small population in households headed by migratory farmworkers (5.4 percent of the total farmworker household population) is a reminder that the migratory worker population is a very small segment of the total group with some dependence on hired farmwork.

The households headed by migratory workers average 3.4 persons per household, which is one person less than the average size of other farmworker households. Most of this difference in household size results from the smaller average number of children of migratory families (1.4 children per household compared with 2.2 in all households). On the other hand, a higher proportion of the household members in migratory families do farm wagework. As a result the average number of farmworkers per household (1.6) is somewhat greater in migratory families than in all farmworker families (1.4).

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3/ Cowhig, James D. Education and Earnings of the Hired Farm Working Force in 1960. U. S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Inform. Bul. 262. May 1962.

Nearly two-fifths of the migratory worker household population was located in the West in December 1962, although less than one-fifth of the total hired worker population was in that region. This is a reflection of the concentration in the Far West of types of farming requiring large amounts of seasonal labor.

Household heads who did migratory farmwork are more likely to live in a city or other urban place than on the farm. This is not true of the nonmigratory worker population regardless of the degree of dependence on farm wage-work. Forty percent of the migratory worker population is urban, and 30 percent, rural nonfarm.

Households of migratory workers are seldom headed by women (less than 6 percent). Although they include both young and old heads, the proportion of persons under 45 among migratory heads (63 percent) was noticeably greater than the proportion at that age in all farm wageworker households (50 percent).

The nonwhite farmworker population was less likely to be in households headed by migrant workers than was the white worker population. Among nonwhites, 17 percent were in households headed by migrant workers in comparison to 28 percent of the whites (data not shown in table).

The proportion of high school graduates (20 percent) among migratory household heads was about the same as for all the heads of households of farm wageworkers. However, among migratory household heads a disproportionate number (41 percent) had failed to complete even 5 years of school. Thus, the educational distribution among migrant heads is rather exceptional. Normally a population with a high proportion of poorly educated people has an abnormally low number of high school graduates. Since this is so clearly not the case among migrants, it should serve as a caution against thinking of this group solely as a semi-illiterate social class. The migrant workers vary in background.

Median family income from all sources among the migratory worker households was \$2,149 in 1962. This is about \$450 lower than the median of all farmworker households. It is associated with, and in part results from, the greater dependence of the migratory worker households on farm wagework. An estimated 47 percent of the total income of these households came from farmwork, compared with 26 percent in all farmworker households.

In the month of the survey the migratory heads were characterized by a high degree of labor force participation, and a high rate of unemployment. They also had a high proportion whose chief activity was hired farmwork, but were far below other farmworker household heads in the proportion working chiefly at nonfarm jobs or as farm operators.

#### DEPENDENCE ON HIRED FARMWORK

The degree of dependence of families upon hired farmwork for their livelihood varies greatly. For some, farm wagework is the principal source of income; for others, it supplements income from nonfarm work or from farming.

Of the 11.2 million people living in all farmworker households, 6.4 million, or more than half, were in households in which the head of the house did less than 25 days of hired farmwork. The other household members had a combined total of less than 150 days of such work (table 2). About 90 percent of them earned less than \$100 from hired farmwork and the group averaged over \$3,000 of income per family from other sources. These households clearly have only minor dependence on farm wagework for their support. It is estimated that less than 5 percent of the net income of the population in this group comes from hired farmwork.

A second group has moderate dependence on farm wagework. These are households in which the head performed 25-149 days of farm wagework per year (usually less than 75 days) or in which the head did little or no farmwork but other members of the household did an aggregate of 150 or more days. The total population in the households of moderate farmwork dependence numbered 2.7 million. As a group, such households earned approximately 28 percent of their income from hired farmwork.

Finally, there is a third group primarily dependent on farm wagework. These are households in which the head did at least 150 days per year of hired farmwork. They contained a population of 2.2 million persons in 1962 and averaged receiving about 82 percent of their income from farm wagework. Workers in these households perform about 64 percent of all days of hired farmwork that are done in the Nation although they contain only 20 percent of the farmworker household population.

#### POPULATION WITH MINOR DEPENDENCE ON HIRED FARMWORK

Persons with minor dependence on hired farmwork are least likely to live on a farm -- only 31.5 percent are on farms compared with 41.5 percent of the other farmworker population. They are more likely to be from households where a good level of education prevails. More than 25 percent of the household heads had completed high school compared with 15 percent for heads in all other farmworker households. About one-fourth of the population in these households is nonwhite, a somewhat lower proportion than in other dependence groups. To a higher than average extent the population of the minor-dependence households consists of children between the ages of 6 and 18 (37 percent against 30 percent in households with moderate or primary dependence). In other words, many of the casual farmworkers come from nonfarm homes with good educational levels, and a high proportion are school-age children earning money on local farms after school hours or in periods of peak labor need.

In 80 percent of the households with minor dependence, only one person did any farmwork. The average level of family income in these households of \$3,187 is equal to the average of the general farm resident population, and is noticeably higher than that of families with moderate dependence (\$1,856) or primary dependence (\$2,476).

Table 2.--Characteristics of population in hired farmworker households, by degree of dependence on farm **wagework**, 1962

Characteristics	Unit	Total	Primary dependence 1/			Moderate dependence 1/			Minor dependence 1/
			Total	Head worked 250 days or more	Head worked 150-249 days	Total	Head worked 25-149 days	Head worked 0-24 days, rest of household 150 days or more	Head worked 0-24 days, rest of household 1-149 days
Number of households	Thou.	2,569	518	344	174	653	509	144	1,398
Population in households	Thou.	11,249	2,224	1,477	747	2,664	1,916	748	6,361
Persons per household	No.	4.38	4.29	4.30	4.29	4.08	3.77	5.18	4.55
Children under 18 per household	No.	2.17	2.18	2.14	2.26	1.93	1.81	2.33	2.28
Total population	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban residence	Pct.	25.2	16.5	12.4	24.6	27.5	29.5	22.5	27.2
Rural nonfarm residence	Pct.	39.0	35.2	37.2	31.2	36.6	38.2	32.4	41.3
Rural farm residence	Pct.	35.8	48.3	50.4	44.2	35.9	32.3	45.1	31.5
Total population	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northeast	Pct.	8.5	9.9	9.6	10.4	8.5	5.4	16.3	8.0
North Central	Pct.	22.3	15.7	17.1	13.0	17.8	16.6	20.8	26.5
South	Pct.	50.5	52.9	50.2	58.1	55.9	60.1	45.2	47.5
West	Pct.	18.7	21.5	23.1	18.5	17.8	17.9	17.7	18.0
Total population	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	Pct.	72.9	73.4	75.7	68.8	65.3	62.4	72.6	75.8
Nonwhite	Pct.	27.1	26.6	24.3	31.2	34.7	37.6	27.4	24.2
Total household heads	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male	Pct.	87.2	96.8	99.0	92.4	85.8	87.5	80.0	84.2
Female	Pct.	12.8	3.2	1.0	7.6	14.2	12.5	20.0	15.8
Total household heads	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years old	Pct.	7.8	10.6	6.1	19.5	9.0	11.1	1.3	6.3
25-44	Pct.	42.1	50.1	54.2	42.2	37.0	38.9	30.7	41.4
45-64	Pct.	41.0	36.8	36.9	36.6	40.4	38.6	46.6	42.9
65 and over	Pct.	9.1	2.5	2.8	1.7	13.6	11.4	21.4	9.4
Population by education of household head 25 years old and over: 2/									
Total population	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 years	Pct.	24.9	34.9	28.7	49.7	32.2	35.2	25.5	18.6
5-8	Pct.	39.6	37.4	40.5	30.0	40.2	41.1	38.1	40.1
9-11	Pct.	14.3	9.5	11.1	5.9	14.4	14.2	14.8	15.8
Completed high school	Pct.	21.2	18.2	19.7	14.4	13.2	9.5	21.6	25.5
Total household heads 3/	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total family income under \$3,000	Pct.	56.4	60.8	54.0	74.3	71.0	78.0	46.4	47.9
Under \$1,000	Pct.	17.8	9.0	6.7	13.7	28.8	34.4	9.1	15.8
\$1,000-\$1,999	Pct.	22.5	31.1	25.2	42.7	24.6	27.0	16.1	18.4
\$2,000-\$2,999	Pct.	16.1	20.7	22.1	17.9	17.6	16.6	21.2	13.7
Total family income \$3,000 and over	Pct.	43.5	39.2	46.0	25.7	28.7	21.7	53.6	52.0
\$3,000-\$4,999	Pct.	19.9	24.8	29.7	15.1	13.0	9.7	24.9	21.3
\$5,000- and over	Pct.	23.6	14.4	16.3	10.6	15.7	12.0	28.7	30.7
Median family income	Dol.	2,600	2,476	2,819	1,851	1,856	1,571	3,218	3,187
Estimated percentage of total income received from farm <b>wagework</b>	Pct.	26	82	85	69	28	27	30	4
Number of farm <b>wageworkers</b>	Thou.	3,622	786	507	280	1,040	792	247	1,796
Average persons per household who did any farm <b>wagework</b>	No.	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.3
Household heads by chief activity December 1962:									
Total household heads	Pct.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm <b>wagework</b>	Pct.	22.6	76.1	82.5	63.4	24.0	30.0	2.6	2.2
Other farmwork	Pct.	14.6	6.0	6.3	5.5	14.0	9.7	29.2	18.0
Nonfarm work	Pct.	41.1	12.8	8.9	20.4	30.5	27.1	42.3	56.6
Unemployed	Pct.	5.6	2.7	1.8	4.5	10.9	13.7	1.2	4.1
Not in the labor force	Pct.	16.1	2.4	.5	6.2	20.6	19.5	24.7	19.1
Household heads: Proportion unemployed of those in labor force	Pct.	6.7	2.8	1.8	4.8	13.7	17.0	1.6	5.1

1/ See text, p. 6, for explanation of dependence categories. 2/ Excludes population in households not included in education sample. 3/ Items may not add to 100.0 because households not reporting income are not included.

## POPULATION WITH MODERATE DEPENDENCE ON HIRED FARMWORK

The population with a moderate dependence on farm wagework consists of two different types of households. The more numerous are those in which the household head does some farm wagework, but less than 150 days per year. The second type consists of households where the head does less than 25 days of such work, if any, but the work of one (or more) other household members adds up to 150 days or more of hired farmwork.

In the households where the head does a substantial amount of farm wagework, there are about 1.9 million people. Three-fifths of them are in the South, a heavier Southern concentration than is true of any other dependence category (except where the head did 150-249 days); about three-eighths of the population was nonwhite. The heads of these households also do much nonfarm work and some of them are farm operators. Others are adults who are not usually in the labor force. Also included are many people who want but cannot obtain more work. Of the household heads who had performed 25-149 days of farm wagework in 1962 and who were in the labor force in December of that year, 17.0 percent were unemployed.

This is the poorest group of farmworker households, with an average total family income of \$1,571 and only \$418 a year from farm wagework. To some extent low income results from the fact that a higher proportion of household heads in this group are nonwhite and a higher proportion are of late middle age or older (and in a state of semi-retirement) than is true among regular workers. Three-tenths of the people in this group live in urban areas, a higher proportion than of any other category.

The second population group of moderate dependence on farm wagework is much smaller, amounting to 144,000 households and 748,000 persons. Only a little over a fourth of the population was nonwhite. These are households in which 150 days or more of farm wagework was performed by household members, but little or none by the head. This pattern occurs with greater than normal frequency in two types of situations; those in which the household head is a farm operator (29 percent) and his children or wife work for wages for him or some other farmer, and those in which the head is too old to work (21 percent are 65 years of age and over). There is very little unemployment among heads of these households (only 1.6 percent) and over 40 percent were engaged primarily in nonfarm work at the time of the survey. The average level of family income (\$3,218) is better than in the homes of full-time farm wageworkers, despite the high proportion of elderly heads. Only a fourth of the households in this group have less than \$2,000 income from all sources, compared with five-eighths of the households in the other group with moderate dependence on farm wagework (where the household head works for 25-149 days).

## POPULATION WITH PRIMARY DEPENDENCE ON HIRED FARMWORK

Of all farm wageworker households, only 20 percent, or about 518,000 are households in which the head does 150 days or more of such work, and which have primary economic dependence on farm wagework. They include a population

of 2.2 million persons, about one-fourth of whom were nonwhite. Not all of the heads of these households have full-time farmwork, however. A full work year is about 250 days (on a 5 day week basis), but a third of the heads in the primary dependence group have only 150-249 days of farmwork yearly. The low average family income of this latter group (\$1,851) suggests that employment of other family members is relatively limited and that there is a good deal of underemployment among the heads of these households.

Among the four major regions of the Nation, a larger number of households with primary dependence on farm wagework are located in the South than in any other single region, as is true of all classes of farmworkers. However, it is in the Northeast and the West that the relative number of households with primary dependence is disproportionately large. In the Northeast, for example, 24.3 percent of all farmworker households have primary dependence, and in the West 23.5 percent, but in the South only 20.1 percent and in the North Central States just 15.6 percent.

As in other types of farmworker households, fully one-half of the population consists of children under 18 years of age. It is the heavy proportion of children in farmworker households that in part creates concern over the welfare of this population. The low education of the majority of the parents and the intermittent and seasonal nature of the work of many of them produce conditions which help to perpetuate low education and low aspirations from one generation to another. About three-eighths of the children in households having a primary dependence upon farm wagework are in homes where the head of the house has less than 5 years of schooling (data not shown in tables). These homes average 3 children under 18 years each, compared with an average of 2 children in the other primary dependence homes of higher education. Thus, within the farmworker population, children are over-represented in households of extremely low education.

In about two-thirds of the households with a primary dependence on farm wagework the head was the only person who did such work. Such households actually average a larger total income than those in which wives or children engage in farmwork in addition to the head. Probably because of their rather constant connection with agriculture, nearly half of the people with primary farmwork dependence live directly on farms, and most of the others live in rural-nonfarm homes.

#### INCIDENCE OF LOW LEVELS OF INCOME AND EDUCATION

As noted in the 1964 Economic Report of the President <sup>4/</sup>, households with heads who were farm laborers or foremen have a very high incidence of poverty (defined as households with less than \$3,000 income in a year) (table 3). In 1962, 56 percent of the households headed by farm laborers and foremen had less than \$3,000 family income, which was 2.4 times as large as the percentage among households headed by nonfarm laborers.

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<sup>4/</sup> Economic Report of the President. Transmitted to Congress, Jan. 1964.

Data from the 1962 hired farm working force survey threw additional light on the income position of households which included any persons who had done farm wagework in that year (table 4). The proportion of households with less than \$3,000 income was particularly high among nonwhites (83 percent), most of whom are in the South, and among households headed by persons who had done some migratory farm wagework in 1962 (71 percent).

Table 3.--Proportion of families with total money income below \$3,000 in 1962, by occupation of head of family in March 1963

Occupation of head in March 1963	Proportion of families with income below \$3,000
	<u>Pct.</u>
All family heads.....	20
Employed civilian family heads .....	12
Professional and technical workers .....	3
Farmers or farm managers .....	45
Clerical workers .....	7
Sales workers .....	9
Craftsmen .....	5
Operative workers .....	11
Domestic workers .....	74
Service workers other than domestic .....	22
Farm laborers or foremen .....	56
Laborers, except farm and mine .....	23

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce. Current Population Reports. Consumer Income, Ser. P-60, No. 41, table 7.

Table 4.--Total number of hired farmworker households and proportion with total money income below \$3,000, by selected characteristics, 1962

Characteristics	: All house- : holds with : farm wage- : workers	: Proportion of : households with : income below : \$3,000
	: <u>Thou.</u>	: <u>Pct.</u>
All households .....	2,569	56
White .....	1,946	48
Nonwhite .....	623	83
Head did some migratory work in 1962 .....	178	71
Households with specified degree of dependence on hired farmwork (days relate to farm wage- work): <u>1/</u>		
Primary dependence .....	518	61
Head worked 250 or more days .....	344	54
Head worked 150-249 days .....	174	74
Moderate dependence .....	653	71
Head worked 25-149 days .....	509	78
Head worked less than 25 days, rest of house- hold worked 150 days or more .....	144	46
Minor dependence (head worked less than 25 days, rest of household worked 1-149 days) .....	1,398	48

1/ See text, p. 6, for explanation of dependence categories.

Incidence of low annual income was highest among families that did some hired farmwork but did not have regular or full employment in either farm or nonfarm work or a combination thereof. Seventy-one percent of these households with moderate dependence on farm wagework had less than \$3,000 income in 1962. Among households with only minor dependence on farm wagework about 48 percent had less than \$3,000 income in 1962, while among households with primary dependence on such work, 61 percent fell in this low-income class.

Low levels of education of many hired farmworkers mean that they can obtain only relatively low-paying types of farm and nonfarm jobs. Among households with persons who had done some hired farmwork in 1962 that were headed by persons at least 25 years old, 65 percent of the household heads had completed only 8 grades of school or less, about one-third of whom had completed less than 5 grades of school (table 5). Households where the head had completed less than 5 years of schooling averaged about \$2,000 income from all sources and those where the head had 5-8 years averaged about \$3,000 total family income. Higher average levels of income were associated with each higher level of educational attainment of the head, with those headed by persons who had completed high school averaging nearly \$5,800. About two-thirds of the heads who had completed high school were found in the households with only minor dependence on hired farmwork.

Within each educational category, the average income of nonwhite households was less than that of white households. In fact, the average income of households headed by nonwhites who had completed high school was only a few hundred dollars higher than the income of white families with a head who had completed less than 5 years of school.

Households headed by migratory workers averaged about \$2,600 from all sources in 1962. Among these households the same relationships, pointed out above, existed between level of education and family income. Households headed by persons with less than 5 years of school completed averaged about \$1,900 family income while those with heads who had completed high school had an average family income of \$4,200.

Among households in the three categories of dependency on farm wage-work, the relationships between income and education of the household head followed the general pattern, but there were some differences in the range from lowest to highest education categories. Households with moderate dependence on farm wagework headed by persons who had completed less than 5 years of school averaged only \$1,600 income, and households with minor dependence on such work, headed by persons who had at least completed high school averaged about \$6,200 family income in 1962.

Nearly two-thirds of all the children and youth under 18 years in households in some way dependent on farm wagework were in households where the head had completed 8 grades of school or less. In the primary and moderate dependence categories over 70 percent of the children were in households headed by persons with 8 years of schooling or less.

Of the nearly 5.6 million children and youth under 18 years of age in farm wageworker households, about 3 million, or 54 percent, were in households in which total family income in 1962 was less than \$3,000. These 3 million young people comprise 27 percent of the 11.4 million children and youth under 18 years of age living in all households in the United States where family income totaled less than \$3,000 in 1962 (data not shown in tables).

Table 5.--Selected characteristics of hired farmworker households with heads 25 years of age and over, by education of head, 1962 <sup>1/</sup>

Characteristics	Unit	All house- holds 2/	Years of school completed by head			
			Under 5	5 - 8	9 - 11	12 and over
<u>Distribution of Households</u>						
All	Pct.	100	24	41	14	21
White	Pct.	100	17	42	14	26
Nonwhite	Pct.	100	44	40	11	5
With head who did migratory work in 1962	Pct.	100	36	33	7	24
With specified degree of depen- dence on hired farmwork: 2/						
Primary	Pct.	100	30	40	11	20
Moderate	Pct.	100	31	42	14	12
Minor	Pct.	100	18	41	15	27
<u>Average Total Income of Households</u>						
All	Dol.	3,481	1,999	2,968	4,066	5,777
White	Dol.	4,028	2,344	3,318	4,571	5,967
Nonwhite	Dol.	1,787	1,579	1,815	2,090	2,705
With head who did migratory work in 1962	Dol.	2,597	1,858	2,244	2,652	4,178
With specified degree of depen- dence on hired farmwork: 2/						
Primary	Dol.	3,053	2,448	2,716	3,078	4,647
Moderate	Dol.	2,587	1,593	2,354	3,180	5,230
Minor	Dol.	4,036	2,060	3,340	4,701	6,198
<u>Children and Youth Under 18</u>						
In all households:						
Number	Thou.	4,964	1,275	1,892	749	1,049
Distribution	Pct.	100	26	38	15	21
In households with specified de- gree of dependence on hired farmwork: 2/						
Primary dependence:						
Number	Thou.	949	376	314	88	170
Distribution	Pct.	100	40	33	9	18
Moderate dependence:						
Number	Thou.	1,137	360	446	183	148
Distribution	Pct.	100	32	39	16	13
Minor dependence:						
Number	Thou.	2,878	538	1,132	478	730
Distribution	Pct.	100	19	39	17	25

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes households not included in education sample.

<sup>2/</sup> See text, p. 6, for explanation of dependence categories.

## APPENDIX A

### SOURCES AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

#### The Survey

The estimates in this series on the hired farm working force are based on information obtained for the Economic Research Service by the Bureau of the Census through supplementary questions on the regular Current Population Survey (CPS). The data for the principal body of tables were obtained in December 1962.

In 1962, the sample was spread over 333 sample areas comprising 641 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 35,000 occupied units were designated for interview each month. Of this number, about 1,500 households, on the average, were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 35,000 there were 5,000 sample units in an average month which were visited but were found to be vacant or otherwise not to be enumerated. 5/

The data in this report relate to all persons 14 years of age and over who did farm wagework in 1962 and who were in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the survey, and to members of the households of these farm wageworkers. Not included as farm wageworkers were persons who did farm wagework in 1962 who died, entered the Armed Forces, or were otherwise removed from the civilian noninstitutional population before the survey. Also excluded were foreign nationals who did farm wagework in this country and who had returned to their homes before the survey. Because the survey was conducted in December when seasonal farm activity is at a minimum, the number of foreign nationals actually included is thought to be very small. The number of persons doing any farmwork in 1962 who were excluded probably does not exceed 500,000 persons.

#### The Schedule

The information upon which this report is based was collected through special supplement to the regular monthly Current Population Survey for December 1962. If a question on the regular survey concerning farm wagework was answered affirmatively, information was collected on the special supplement for hired farmworkers. A copy of the 1962 supplementary schedule is reproduced on pages 15-16.

Reliability of the Estimates.--The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age,

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5/ For a thorough explanation of the CPS sample see: The Current Population Survey: A Report on Methodology, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Technical Paper No. 7. Washington, D. C., 1963.

**HIRED FARM WORK SURVEY--1962**

<p><b>33. During 1962, did . . . do any farm work for cash wages or salary, even for a few days?</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="radio"/> (Fill Item 34-41)</p> <p>No <input type="radio"/> (Omit remaining items on this page.)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p><b>REVIEW ITEM 48 ON HOUSEHOLD PAGE FOR VETERANS FOLLOW-UP.</b></p> </div>	<p><b>34. On how many days did . . . do farm work for cash wages during 1962?</b></p> <p>0 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>1 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>6 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>9 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p>	<p><b>35. How much did . . . earn in cash wages from farm work in 1962?</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$</div> <p>0 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>1 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>6 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>9 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p>	<p><b>36. Some farm workers leave home to harvest crops or do other seasonal farm work in a different county. Did . . . do this in 1962?</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No <input type="radio"/></p>	<p><b>37. In 1962, was . . . 's farm work for cash wages mostly with livestock, with machines, or hand labor?</b></p> <p>With livestock <input type="radio"/></p> <p>With machines <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Hand labor <input type="radio"/></p>
<p><b>38. During 1962, did . . . do any nonfarm work for cash wages or salary?</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="radio"/> (Ask 39-41)</p> <p>No <input type="radio"/> (Skip to 41)</p>	<p><b>39. On how many days did . . . do nonfarm work for cash wages or salary during 1962?</b></p> <p>0 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>1 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>6 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>9 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p>	<p><b>40. How much did . . . earn in cash wages or salary from nonfarm work during 1962?</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$</div> <p>0 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>1 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>6 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>9 <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p>	<p><b>41. What was . . . doing most of 1962 -</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">{</div> <div> <p>Working</p> <p>Keeping house</p> <p>Going to school</p> </div> <div style="margin-left: 10px;">}</div> </div> <p>Or something else?</p> <p>Farm work for cash wages . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Operating a farm . . . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Other farm work . . . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Nonfarm work . . . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Looking for work . . . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Keeping house . . . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Going to school . . . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Other (Specify) . . . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____</p>	<p align="right"><i>Budget Bureau No. 41-R1223.8</i> <i>Approval Expires 1-31-63</i></p> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <p><b>Fill hired farm work transcription items on household identification page and review item 48.</b></p>

FOR HIRED FARM WORKER HOUSEHOLDS ONLY (ANYONE WITH "YES" IN ITEM 33)--TRANSCRIBE ITEMS 42-47 BELOW FROM CONTROL CARD.

<p>42. Total number of household members regardless of age or military status.</p> <p>1 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>6 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>9+ <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>43. Total number of household members 0-17 years old.</p> <p>0 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>1 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>6 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>9+ <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>44. Total number of household members 0-5 years old.</p> <p>0 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>1 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>6 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>9+ <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>EDUCATION OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (Control Card Item 24 and 25)</p> <p>45. Highest grade attended by head 25 years old and over.</p> <p>None . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>E1 E2 E3 E4 E5 E6 E7 E8</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>H1 H2 H3 H4</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6+</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>46. Grade completed.</p> <p>Yes . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No . . . <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>47. Total family income. (Control Card Item 33)</p> <p>A. Under \$1,000 . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>B. \$1,000-1,999 . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>C. 2,000-2,999 . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>D. 3,000-3,999 . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>E. 4,000-4,999 . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>F. 5,000-5,999 . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>G. 6,000-7,499 . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>H. 7,500-9,999 . . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>I. 10,000-14,999 . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>J. 15,000-24,999 . . <input type="radio"/></p> <p>K. 25,000 and over . . <input type="radio"/></p>
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color, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on strength of the Armed Forces.

Since the estimates are based on sample data, they are subject to sampling variability. They may differ somewhat from the results that would have been obtained from another sample, or from a complete census using the same schedules, instructions, and interviews. The results are also subject to errors of response and reporting.

The standard error of an estimate is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole population is surveyed. The standard error, as calculated for this report, also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not reflect any systematic biases in the data. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the difference due to sampling variability between an estimate and the figure that would have been obtained from a complete enumeration is less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference is less than twice the standard error.

The estimates of standard errors shown in this report are approximations for the 333 area sample and apply specifically to the number of farm wageworkers. They also can be used to estimate the standard error of the number of households with one or more farm wageworkers; somewhat higher standard errors should be used in approximation of the total population in wageworker households. In order to derive standard errors which would be applicable to a wide variety of population characteristics and which could be prepared at moderate cost, a number of approximations are required. As a result the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item.

Table 6 shows standard errors of the level of estimates of persons who did hired farmwork in 1962.

Table 6.--Standard error of level of estimates of persons who did farm wage-work, CPS Supplement, December 1962

(68 chances out of 100)		
Size of estimate	:	Standard error
	:	
100,000	:	20,000
250,000	:	32,000
500,000	:	45,000
1,000,000	:	63,000
2,500,000	:	100,000
	:	

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which the percentage is based. Generally, estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding absolute estimates of the numerator of the percentage, particularly if the percentage is high.

Table 7 shows the standard errors of estimated percentages of persons or households in a given class.

Table 7.--Standard error of percentages of persons or households, CPS Supplement, December 1962

(68 chances out of 100)

Percent	Base of percentage in thousands							
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	
	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	
2 or 98	2.8	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	
5 or 95	4.4	2.8	2.0	1.4	.9	.6	.5	
10 or 90	6.0	3.8	2.7	1.9	1.2	.9	0.6	
25 or 75	8.7	5.5	3.9	2.8	1.7	1.2	.9	
50	10.0	6.4	4.5	3.2	2.0	1.4	1.0	

The tables in this report present estimates of the average or median income of various types of hired farmworker households. The sampling variability of an estimated average or median depends upon the distribution as well as on the size of the base. Confidence limits of a median based on sample data may be estimated as follows: (1) From table 7, using the appropriate base, determine the standard error of a 50-percent characteristic, (2) add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error determined in step (1). Values of the characteristic measure corresponding to the 50 plus or minus one standard-error percentage points are then read off the distribution of the characteristic. A two standard error confidence limit may be determined by finding the values corresponding to 50 plus or minus twice the standard error shown in table 7.

## APPENDIX B

### DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Farm wagedworkers.--Persons 14 years old and over in the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States at the time of the survey who did any farmwork for cash wages or salary at any time in the year, even if only for one day.

Farmwork for cash wages or salary consists of (1) Work done on any farm for cash wages in connection with the production, harvesting, threshing, preparation for market, or delivery to market of agricultural products. (2) Work done off the farm for a farmer by his hired farmworker, such as trips to town to buy feed, seeds, fertilizer, or to handle other matters involved in running the farm business. (3) Such work as the repair of farm buildings, machinery, etc., performed by a farm wage worker when done along with the type of work specified in (1) and (2) above. (4) Managing a farm enterprise for cash salary. Not included as farmwork for cash wages or salary are (1) Work performed by farm operators on their own farms; or "exchange" work between farmers. (2) Work done exclusively for "pay in kind." (3) Work done without pay on a family farm by a member of the farm operator's family. (A small regular cash allowance is not considered as farm wages.) (4) Nonfarm work performed on a farm, such as the building of a farm structure by a carpenter or stonemason, the drilling of a well by a well driller, the hauling of agricultural products to market by a commercial hauler, or domestic service in the home of a farmer. (5) Custom work such as spraying, threshing, combining, etc., when a person is paid a combined rate for the use of his equipment and labor.

Farm wagedworker population.--Persons of all ages in households in which one or more persons was classified as a farm wagedworker at sometime in 1962.

Household.--A household includes all the persons who occupy a room, a house, an apartment, or other group of rooms which constitutes separate living quarters (that is when the housing unit is occupied by persons who do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure), and when there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall, or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

Household head.--The head is defined as the person who is regarded as the head by the members of the households. In most cases, the head is usually a married man and the chief breadwinner of the family. For a married couple, the husband is considered the head if he is living in the household. In some cases, the head is a parent of the chief earner or is the only adult member of the household. In cases of two or more unrelated persons sharing a unit, the person in whose name the unit is listed is generally designated as the head.

Household dependence on farm wagedwork.--Degree of dependence of households on farm wagedwork as determined by the days of farm wagedwork of the household head and other members of the household.

Minor dependence.--Head did less than 25 days and other household members did a combined total of less than 150 days.

Moderate dependence.--Head did 25-149 days or head did less than 25 days but other household members did an aggregate of 150 or more days.

Primary dependence.--Head did 150 days or more.

Region.--The States included in each of the four regions are as follows:  
Northeast: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey. North Central: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas. South: Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas. West: Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Alaska.

Residence.--Residence is determined on the basis of the classification of the place in which the worker lived at the time of the survey. In the Current Population Survey, farm wageworkers were classified as living in urban or rural territory in accordance with the 1960 Census definitions and boundaries. Persons living in rural areas were classified as living on farms (rural-farm residents) if they lived on places of 10 or more acres from which as much as \$50 worth of agricultural products were sold in the reporting year. Also included are those living on places of under 10 acres if as much as \$250 worth of agricultural products were sold from the place in the reporting year. The remainder of the rural population -- those in towns and villages or in the open country but not on farms -- were classified as rural-nonfarm.

Age.--The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Color.--The term "color" refers to the division of the population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The nonwhite group includes Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Education.--Refers to years of school completed in "regular" schools such as graded public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools, colleges, universities and professional schools.

Chief activity.--Information on the chief activity in December 1962 for heads of households that contained farm wageworkers was derived from the question "What was . . . doing most of last week -- working, keeping house, going to school, or something else?" If "working" was reported as the chief activity, the kind of work the person was doing was determined from other questions. Farm wagework was reported if the person spent most of his working time doing farm wagework. Other farmwork was reported if a person spent most of his working time operating his own farm (as an owner or tenant) or doing unpaid work on a family farm. Nonfarm work was reported if a person spent most of his working

time in his own business or profession, work without pay in a family business, or work for pay (or pay in kind) in any nonfarm activity, such as manufacturing, trade, construction, domestic service, etc.

If the person did not report working as his chief activity, report was obtained on what he was doing most of the year. Looking for work (unemployed) was reported for a person who spent most of his time without employment, but actively looking for a job. If keeping house, going to school, or something else was reported, the person was classified as not in the labor force at the time of the survey.

Migratory status.--Migratory farm wageworkers are those from whom a "yes" answer was given to the question, "Some farmworkers leave home to harvest crops or do other seasonal farm work in a different county. Did. . .do this in (year)?" Enumerators were instructed: (1) to consider as migratory workers (a) persons who were reported to have left their homes temporarily overnight to do farm wagework in another county, with the expectation of returning home; and (b) persons who had no usual place of residence if they did farm wagework in two or more counties during the year; (2) to consider as nonmigratory workers (a) persons who were reported as farm wageworkers in the county for part of the year and who made a more or less permanent move to another county during the year and also did farm wagework in the second county; and (b) persons who commuted daily across the county line to do farm wage work and returned home each night.

Total family income.--Sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings for all members of the family.

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#### RELATED REPORTS

Advance Report: The Hired Farm Working Force of 1962, U. S. Dept. Agr. ERS-141, Oct. 1963. The Hired Farm Working Force of 1963 with Supplementary Data for 1962, U. S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 76, May 1965.